

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

C1 Claim 13 (currently amended): A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with a genetic recombinant HCV antigen and one or more synthesized HCV antigens.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The diagnostic reagent of claim 13, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is an HCV non-structural region protein.

C2 Claim 15 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 13, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is NS3 antigen.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 13, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

✓ Claim 17 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 13, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises an HCV non-structural region protein and an HCV structural region protein.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 13, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

C3 Claim 19 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 13, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

Claim 20 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

✓ Claim 21 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises an HCV non-structural region protein and an HCV structural region protein.

Claim 22 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the synthesized HCV antigen comprises core peptide, NS4 peptide and NS5 peptide.

Claim 23 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the carrier protein and the synthesized HCV antigen are present at a ratio of about 1:3 to 1:20 (carrier protein: synthesized HCV antigen).

✓ Claim 24 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim + 13, wherein the solid phase is directly sensitized with the genetic recombinant HCV antigen.

C4 ✓ Claim 25 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim + 13, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

✓ Claim 26 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 25, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is selected from HCV non-structural region proteins.

✓ Claim 27 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 25, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is NS3 antigen.

Claim 28 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 19, wherein the carrier protein is a water-soluble protein.

Claim 29 (previously added): The diagnostic reagent of claim 28, wherein the water-soluble protein is selected from the group consisting of BSA, ovalbumin and hemocyanin.

C5 Claim 30 (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim + 13, wherein the solid phase is a carrier particle.